

Victims know and trust their health care providers. Almost 3/4 of survivors say that they would like their health care providers to ask them about violence and abuse.

Multiple clinical studies have shown that short interventions in the medical environment protect the health and safety of women. These interventions are short between 2 and 10 minutes, and effective. In repeated clinical trials, violence decreased and health status improved following simple assessment and referral protocols. Integrating these effective protocols into our health care system will save lives.

This is why routine assessments for intimate partner violence have been recommended for health care settings by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Nurses Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Since its passage in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, has transformed our criminal justice system and social service system, helping to prevent and respond to domestic violence. The last reauthorization of VAWA, set to expire this year, included a new title authorizing three programs that support the health system's efforts to help victims, preventing further abuse and improving the health status of women. The bill I am introducing today will continue those important efforts.

This bill would consolidate the three existing health programs into one program, while increasing evaluation and accountability. Specifically, this bill would foster public health responses to intimate partner violence and sexual violence; provide training and education of health professionals to respond to violence and abuse; and support research on effective public health approaches to end violence against women.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important bill.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. SNOWE and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1768. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce an amended version of S. 542, the National Guard, Reserve, "Gray Area" Retiree, and Surviving Spouse Space-available Travel Equity Act.

The original legislation, S. 542, has been modified slightly. The modification will ensure the Department of Defense retains the authority to issue regulations to implement the bill.

The underlying intent of the legislation has not changed. The bill will provide reserve component members and retired reserve component members the ability to travel overseas and travel with their dependents when there is space-available on a military aircraft. Additionally, the bill will ensure surviving spouses of retired members or members killed in the line of duty to retain space-available travel privileges after the death of their loved one.

Members and retirees of the National Guard and Reserve, their families, and surviving military spouses make great sacrifices for our Nation. However, too often these individuals do not receive the benefits they have earned for their service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in giving parity to our reserve component members, reserve component retirees and surviving military spouses. The no-cost legislation is endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Guard, Reserve, 'Gray Area' Retiree, and Surviving Spouses Space-available Travel Equity Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE MEMBERS, GRAY-AREA RETIREES, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF RETIRED MEMBERS, AND DEPENDENTS FOR SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 157 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2641b the following new section:

"§ 2641c. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: reserve members, reserve members eligible for retired pay but for age; widows and widowers of retired members; and dependents

"(a) RESERVE MEMBERS.—A member of a reserve component holding a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis.

"(b) RESERVE RETIREES UNDER APPLICABLE ELIGIBILITY AGE.—A member or former member of a reserve component who, but for being under the eligibility age applicable to the member under section 12731 of this title, otherwise would be eligible for retired pay under chapter 1223 of this title shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis.

"(c) WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF RETIRED MEMBERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An unremarried widow or widower of a member of the armed forces described in paragraph (2) shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis.

"(2) MEMBERS COVERED.—A member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (1) is a member who—

"(A) is entitled to retired pay;

"(B) is described in subsection (b);

"(C) dies in the line of duty while on active duty and is not eligible for retired pay; or

"(D) in the case of a member of a reserve component, dies as a result of a line of duty condition and is not eligible for retired pay.

"(d) DEPENDENTS.—A dependent of a member or former member described in subsection (a) or (b) or of an unremarried widow or widower described in subsection (c) holding a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis, if the dependent is accompanying the member.

"(e) SCOPE.—Space-available travel required by this section includes travel to and from locations within and outside the continental United States.

"(f) DEFINITION OF DEPENDENT.—In this section, the term 'dependent' has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of this title."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2641b the following new item:

"2641c. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: reserve members, reserve members eligible for retired pay but for age; widows and widowers of retired members; and dependents."

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement section 2641c of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 919. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 872, to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 920. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2112, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 919. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 872, to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DELAY OF PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION.

During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or a State in the case of a permit